



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held December 14, 2004, the Board took the following action:

2

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“The December 7, 2004 presentation by The Alliance for Children’s Rights has raised issues of the handling of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) delivery system that addresses placement of children with complex issues of child abuse and neglect. One area that must be addressed is the need for a service delivery system that provides front-end emergency responses that bridge the gap between family services and the emergency response investigation.

“The DCFS ‘Compton Project,’ a pilot project in the SPA 6 DCFS Compton and Wateridge offices, has demonstrated success in addressing these issues with the implementation of the ‘Point of Engagement’ Service delivery system. This system aims to provide comprehensive investigations of referrals through assessments of the children and family as well as immediate provision of services for families through team-decision-making, community collaboration and full engagement of the family in development of their case plan. Furthermore, Medical Hubs are medical facilities whose primary purpose is to provide a uniform and standard process with which to evaluate the health and mental health needs of children entering or at risk of entering the child welfare system; and if a child is detained, the Multi-Disciplinary Assessment and Treatment Team (MAT) utilizes the evaluations of the Medical Hubs to case-manage in coordination with the Children’s Social Workers and other agencies.

(Continued on Page 2)

2 (Continued)

“This front-end service delivery system is evidencing great success in the SPA 6 DCFS Compton and Wateridge offices by providing a strong safety net for each family served by reducing the number of detentions, yet increasing the number of families served through voluntary programs, while ensuring child safety through the immediate linkage to services. Countywide implementation of the Point of Engagement will assist the Department in the protection of abused and neglected children through a more comprehensive assessment process, a closer coordination of efforts with community providers and immediate linkage of the family to resources that will strengthen our families and children.”

Michael Jeffries and Tony Bravo, representing SEIU Local 535, and Warren Williams addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Director of Children and Family Services was instructed to:

1. Report back in 90 days on the feasibility of and/or a plan to expand the front-end Point of Engagement Service Delivery system Countywide; and
2. Work with First 5 Partnership for Families as Department of Children and Family Services rolls out the model.

09121404_2

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel